

Wednesday August 28 1996

Table with flight information including destinations like Abu Dhabi, Amsterdam, Athens, etc.

The Guardian INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

46,644

James Wood defends Nabokov

For the love of Lolita



Arts

Theatre of youth celebrates the big 40



Society

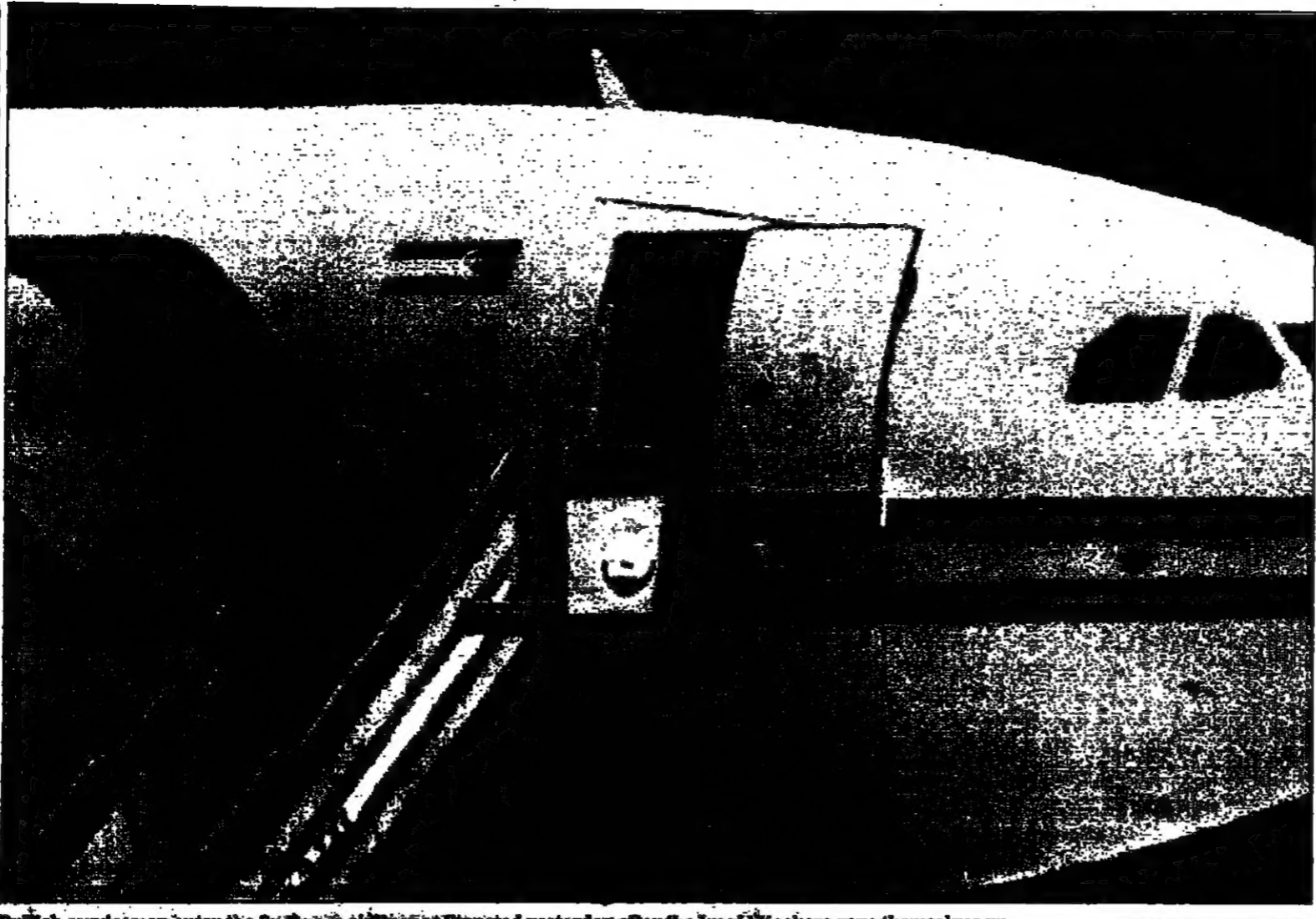
Drugs threat in Northern Ireland

G2 pages 10/11

Iraqis' hijack gamble

John Hullah, Christopher Elliott, Owen Rowland, Kathy Evans and Ian Black

THE security services were last night expected to begin debriefing seven Iraqi hijackers who gave themselves up at Stansted Airport yesterday...



British servicemen enter the Sudanese airfield at Stansted yesterday after the Iraqi hijackers gave themselves up

The hijackers, who were being held at Herrow police station in Essex, believed they could trade off political asylum for their families...

Tilt survives after 537 freed in jails fiasco

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

THE fiasco over the early release of prisoners plumed new depths last night when the Home Secretary was forced to announce that 537 inmates had been freed...

'But if to marry is hopeful, divorce is more real'

Fifteen years ago the Poet Laureate John Betjeman recorded the joy of their wedding; today poet Michael Horowitz finds lines to mark their divorce

Excerpt from Betjeman's royal wedding poem: I'm glad that you are marrying at home...



Lines for British (& universal) subjects, occasioned by the divorce of Diana from Charles, August 28, 1996

'Three million jobless, and only One royal wedding' Rang the scornful chant from Inverness to Reading...

A FEW strokes of an artist's official pen yesterday, an extra coronet and it was done. Out went Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales...

Gazette. Both lost the right to be called HRH under the terms of their divorce settlements.

The company is the only British arts group with which Diana chose to retain links after the divorce nisi came through six weeks ago.

churchgoers feel the Prince of Wales, as a divorcee, cannot hold the position of Supreme Governor of the Church of England.

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Sketch

Scan and scoff, free of prying eyes



Martin Linton

Breakfast will be wonderful this morning. I shall have two slices of Mother's Pride thick white toast, spread with Amcor butter and topped with three rashers of crispy Danish back bacon.

shopping into green boxes on my trolley and smuggle it through the checkout without letting anyone, even Laura on the checkout, see what I'm eating.

There's one problem, though. Nine times out of 10 the auto pay point prints out the message "you don't need to be checked". That means you can just put in the plastic and walk through. But just occasionally you have to be re-scanned.

At 5.25am, while Metropolitan police tracked down Mr Sadah - an influential figure in the association, which helps expatriates with asylum applications - the door by the aircraft's cockpit opened and more than 200 media representatives watched steps being manoeuvred into place as dawn broke.

The British are known to help. They've accepted asylum seekers before. If cases are studied by the authorities and given asylum, why not?

yielded their demands: they wanted representatives from the Red Cross and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, and Mr Sadah said, of the Iraqi Community Association, to oversee their surrender.

Throughout, negotiations were going on. At 7am, the pilot radioed: "They are not fundamentalists. They are not political... they are ordinary people, they have been persecuted by Saddam regime. They need protection for their families."

Two more women left the aircraft at 11.20am and 15 minutes later Mr Sadah arrived in the control tower - and the hijackers agreed to surrender.

minutes later, a young mother and two small children nervously negotiating the bright blue steps with their hands on their heads. From then on, others emerged singly or with children at four- or five-minute intervals. By 12.37am, everyone was off the aircraft except the crew.

At 1.20pm, the negotiator told the pilot: "Captain, before I tell you to come out, can I just say we think you've done a marvellous job and I think we owe you a large milkshake." He replied: "I do owe you a large thanks for being patient with us. And thank you very much for your co-operation."

The crew carefully made their way off the plane, the last to leave being Captain Hidirli. Largely unseen, he came down the steps and then he knelt and apparently kissed the ground.

Review

The prat in the hat whips up a party

Garth Cartwright

questionable but his song writing and arranging skills remain little more than Xeroxes of 1970s soul grooves.

questionable but his song writing and arranging skills remain little more than Xeroxes of 1970s soul grooves.

UK seen as safe haven

Experts divided on the case for refugee status

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

THESE Iraqi hijackers were widely assumed to have chosen London as their destination because of Britain's record as the principal safe haven for Middle Eastern political dissidents.



Nick Hardwick: 'Sending them back will mean death'

Conservative MPs insisted they should be sent back immediately to the Sudan as any concession would mean hijacking was seen as an easy way to get asylum in Britain.

Conservative MPs insisted they should be sent back immediately to the Sudan as any concession would mean hijacking was seen as an easy way to get asylum in Britain.

Table with 2 columns: Refugees, People recognized as refugees by Britain, 1995. Rows include Iraq, Former Yugoslavia, Iran, Turkey, Other Middle East, Rest of world, Total.

NHS trust chiefs face sack over video of hospital operations

David Brindley

HOSPITAL chiefs could be sacked over the making of a commercial video showing NHS surgery, Gerald Malone, the Health Minister, warned on the eve of today's High Court action.

Everyday Operations, following the interim injunction obtained by the department on Sunday.

London fixer who paved the way for exiles

Kathy Evans

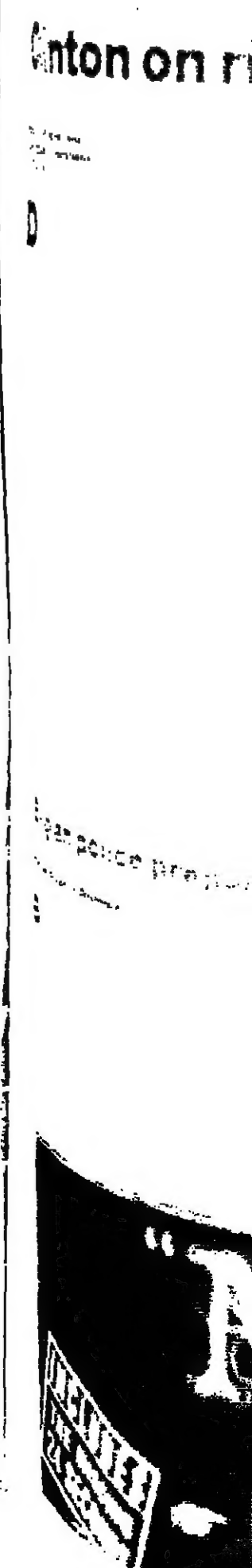
HIS was a telephone number which could save your life. It was a kind of commodity passed by word of mouth among Iraqi families fleeing the regime of Saddam Hussein.

well-worn advice. When they landed at Stansted airport yesterday with nearly 200 passengers on board, it was Sadah they asked for as their peacebroker.

His early experiences as a refugee in Britain led him and a group of Iraqi exiles to found the Iraqi Community Association. Operating from a tiny office in Hammersmith street by volunteers, the organisation says it helps hundreds of Iraqis arriving in Britain each year to cope with asylum applications and social services.



ARGENTINE REPUBLIC NATIONAL STATE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR (Ministerio del Interior) Public, National and International Bid No 01/96 Full, indivisible contract of a service for the design, start up and support of a System of Migration Control and Identification of Individuals and of electoral information.



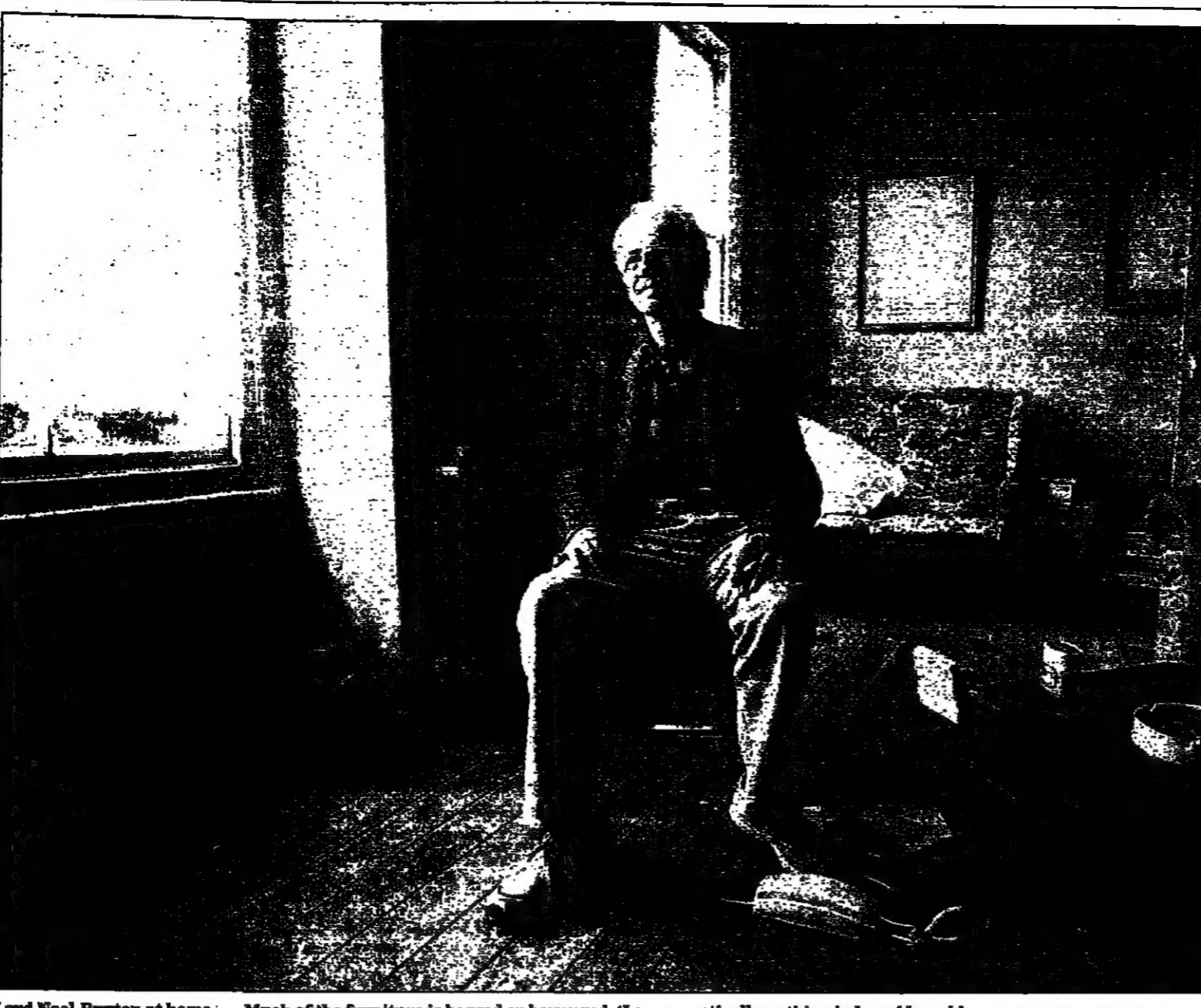
# Charity keeps lord in 1-bed flat

James Melke and David Hencke on a fall from grace

**H**IS grandfather presided over agriculture policy for the first Labour government; his father was a lecturer and broadcaster who once waded across the Thames at Westminster. Yesterday Martin Noel-Buxton, third Baron Noel-Buxton, the penniless occupant of a one-bedroomed charity flat in a terraced house in Wandsworth, south London, explained how the family had fallen from cabinet seat to dowdy sofa.

The Tory peer, allocated the property because he was considered "vulnerable" by council housing officials — and bearer of the family motto "Do it with thy might" — spent 19 days in bed and breakfast accommodation before moving into the 263 sq ft flat.

"I am an alcoholic," he said. "I did not have very much money in the first place but I blew it. That is what you do when you are pissed. It was nothing very dramatic but I spent far too much."



Lord Noel-Buxton at home... Much of the furniture is begged or borrowed. 'I own practically nothing in here,' he said

cluding his grandfather, hung on the wall.

The stereo system was his, classical CDs, including Handel and Telemann, rested in boxes with other much-loved possessions. He applied for a council home before Christmas after staying in a flat "the other side of Battersea Park" owned by his first wife's husband. "Nothing in this is simple," he smiled. "He was doing me a favour. His son, my stepson, wanted to stay there."

## 'I am incredibly lucky. I should be dead, under a bridge or insane'

"This is brilliant. I am incredibly lucky. I should be dead, under a bridge or insane. Only about 3 per cent of alcoholics make it into sobriety for any length of time. It is a story of recovery and heroism."

Lord Noel-Buxton, who said he took his last alcoholic drink on October 10 1994, used mainly to drink strong lagers or vodka "because it didn't smell, as

few peers knew of his troubles. "I am not that close to anyone." Asked about his third wife, the peer replied: "Would you like to be married to an alcoholic?" He used the Lords, when sitting, for free meals, heating and lighting. Most days he went to Alcoholics Anonymous. "I can't work. It takes a lot of time to recover from a total disas-

ter." Asked what he thought about a peer being in such a position, he said: "Look at Jamie Blandford [son of the Duke of Marlborough, who has been convicted of drugs offences] for Christ's sake. Do I have to say more? Can you see any rhyme or reason why I should be different by virtue of what my grandfather did?" Lord Noel-Buxton's career as a commercial solicitor in the City, and as a specialist in intellectual property, came to a virtual end in 1982 after he was convicted of drink-driving, although he remained a consultant to a Brighton firm until 1994. He spoke in the House of Lords in January, supporting a government bill overhauling arbitration procedures.

# Each school to get own exam target

John Carvel Education Editor

**T**HE Government is preparing to tighten its grip on the education service and tackle chronic under-achievement by setting individual targets up for every school to be based on performance in tests at 7, 11, and 14 and to improve results at GCSE and A level.

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, wants to calculate the standard to be expected in each one of England's 25,000 primary and secondary schools after assessing the educational, social and economic background of its pupils.

Inner city comprehensives would not be expected to match the performance of suburban grammar schools, but their teachers and governors would be instructed to work out for themselves how to achieve goals tailored to their circumstances. The Office for Standards in Education would then be able to focus the scrutiny of school inspectors more closely on establishments failing to reach their improvement targets. It was unclear last night whether Mrs Shephard thought her officials could work out the targets centrally, or whether the job would be delegated to local education authorities. Either way, the performance targets would be geared — locally and regionally — to deliver the national education targets for 2000. These include the achievement of at least five GCSEs at grade C or above by at least 85 per cent of people by the age of 19, and two A levels or the vocational equivalent by 80 per cent of people by the age of 21. Schools and regions already meeting those standards would be expected to over-achieve to allow leeway for others.

tendance and discipline which may be announced in her speech to the Conservative Party conference. "Next month I shall be making an announcement about target-setting in schools," Mrs Shephard said yesterday. Targets would be drawn up for all individual schools. Officials said the targets would not be based on a given percentage uplift in a school's previous performance in tests or exams. It was understood the targets would be set according to type of school and the socio-economic background of its intake.

The School Curriculum and Assessment Authority is about to start a pilot to establish the value added by individual schools to children's education. The study will compare the input of educational, social and economic attributes of pupils entering with the output in terms of academic results achieved.

Graham Lane, Labour education chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said Mrs Shephard was right to want schools to set improvement targets, but wrong if she thought they could be imposed by central government. "We started target-setting in the London borough of Newham 10 years ago. We had 7 per cent of our young people achieving at least five GCSE passes at grades A to C and we said this should rise to 20 per cent by 1992. This year we reached 25 per cent and our target for 1998 is 35 per cent."

"We did this by working in partnership with schools, setting achievable targets. I do not want Mrs Shephard going around setting stupid targets that people cannot reach. Targets are right, but centralism is wrong." Mrs Shephard said she is considering a merger of the exam boards into two or three closely monitored consortiums which could not lower pass marks to attract business. Dennis Hatfield, chairman of the joint council for the GCSE, questioned the Government's power to compel mergers. "A big board was being shut out they might consider it necessary to fight," he said.

Exam board merger ordered, page 4

# Clinton on right track as he steams ahead in polls

Martha Walker and Jonathan Freedland in Chicago

**D**EMOCRATS will renominate Bill Clinton for four more years in the White House tonight, buoyed by a new poll showing the president enjoying the traditional post-convention "bounce" before the gathering really begins.

Mr Clinton now leads his Republican rival Bob Dole by 15 points, boosting him by a 51-ABC News survey released last night. The poll confirms earlier figures indicating last week's rash of White House initiatives to raise the minimum wage, reform the welfare system and restrict tobacco sales have paid dividends.

Analysts agreed that a highly-polished first day at the convention, coupled with his barnstorming tour to Chicago across the Midwest, is first replacing memories of the Republicans' slick convention at San Diego a fortnight ago. Pollsters predicted that

once the Democratic convention is over, Mr Clinton will return to the 36-plus points lead he enjoyed over Mr Dole most of the summer.

On the eve of his arrival in Chicago, Mr Clinton launched a new education plan to train more teachers and raise adult literacy levels.

He spent the day on his slow-moving "21st century express" train, a deliberate anti-grabbing maneuver to the hi-tech information convention centre in Chicago.

Fearing a repeat of the boredom of the television networks with the made-for-TV Republican convention, the Clinton team devised the train trip — an idea pinched from the former president George Bush four years ago — as a beguiling mixture of news and nostalgia.

The education initiative followed Monday's announcement of a new gun control measure, tailored to match the moving appearance of James and Sarah Brady on the convention platform. Mr Brady, the devoted press spokesman for President Ronald Reagan until permanently disabled by a bullet during



President Clinton makes a train stop to meet the people of Ohio

the assassination attempt on Mr Reagan, left his wheelchair to limp painfully to the podium and praise Mr Clinton. Yesterday's announcement of a five-year programme to end illiteracy was timed to match Hillary Clinton's starring role in "Family Night" at the convention. Mr Clinton will announce today new environmental reforms as Al Gore, the ecologically-minded vice president, speaks at the convention, with a blend of policy, power and presentation which his Republican

challengers could hardly match. The train ride has guaranteed blanket coverage in the local media of the important swing state of Ohio, and attracted thousands to small-town rallies. It also provided some felicitous moments of soft focus and human interest stories for the cameras.

Not all of these were planned. At Wharton, Ohio, an elderly woman fainted in the crowd. Mr Clinton cleared a space for her to be helped on to his train, discovered that it was Retta LaFawn Platt's 98th birthday, and led the crowd in singing "Happy Birthday". "It's been a long time since I made a girl faint," he told her, as the crowd roared and his daughter Chelsea laughed by his side.

to any Name who had not yet accepted the offer to fax Lloyd's at once.

He said 82 per cent of its Names had accepted the offer, including 85 per cent of the 2,700 US Names. That percentage is likely to rise sharply after yesterday's legal victory. Lloyd's appears set to announce that the offer is unconditional after its ruling council meets tomorrow.

Lloyd's devised the settlement offer after it was hit by losses of nearly \$8 billion during 1988 to 1992. The losses brought the market to its knees, financially crippling many investors and driving some to suicide.

At one stage the crisis looked set to envelop the government after it emerged that about 50 Tory MPs had large Lloyd's losses.

The losses were caused by disasters in 1989, such as the Exxon Valdez oil spill, Hurricane Hugo and the Piper Alpha oil rig explosion. Losses also continue to pour into the market from US asbestos and pollution claims. The rescue deal is designed to compensate the Names for their losses. The rescue also involves the setting up of Equitas, a reinsurance company which will take over the market's old loss-making claims. The Names will pay a premium to reinsure their old liabilities into Equitas and agree never to sue Lloyd's again. In return they will be able to quit the market, safe in the knowledge that they will almost certainly never have to pay Lloyd's another penny.

# Legal ruling saves Lloyd's

Pauline Springett

**T**HE survival of one of the pillars of the City looked assured last night after the federal judge in London insurance market won the right to go ahead with a \$3.2 billion rescue package to stave off its collapse.

The fourth circuit US Court of Appeals overturned an injunction last Friday by a federal judge in Virginia which had effectively blocked the rescue.

Yesterday's legal victory was crucial for the 306-year-old Lloyd's market because the deadline for its \$4,000 investment, known as Names, to accept the package is noon today.

If the injunction had been upheld, Lloyd's would have been forced to delay the settlement deal for a vital two months. It had warned that such a delay might plunge it into insolvency. Despite this, the judge in Virginia ruled that Lloyd's had violated US securities laws by failing to provide enough information about the rescue settlement to Names. He had ordered Lloyd's to provide the additional information and to give the US Names enough time to digest it. David Rowland, Lloyd's chairman, said: "The decision removes the remaining major legal obstacle to implementation of the reconstruction plan. It is clear that the vast majority of Names have not allowed themselves to be deterred from accepting the offer by the uncertainty generated by these court proceedings." Mr Rowland appealed

Notesbook, page 11

# Belgian police prepare to dig all night for 'five more bodies' in paedophile scandal

Stephen Bates in Brussels

**B**ELGIAN police were last night involved in an intensive search for the bodies of up to five victims of a paedophile gang in the rubbish-strewn backyard of a house belonging to their chief suspect, Marc Dutroux, in a village near Charleroi in the south of the country. Scores of police officers cleared car parts and other

debris from behind a house in the village of Jumet before mechanical excavators, radar detection equipment and sniffer dogs could be used. Police also brought in Harry Janssen, a Dutch air-force lieutenant who is able to find bodies with his extraordinary sense of smell. Mr Janssen, who has most recently put his skill to work in Bosnia, pushes iron rods in the soil to trace bodies. "I smell the iron to see if there are

human remains in the neighbourhood," he said. The investigators fear that the bodies of An Marchal, aged 19, and her friend Beffe Lambrechts, aged 17, who Dutroux has admitted abducting near Ostend a year ago, may be buried at the site. As digging got under way last night, police said they would continue the operation through the night. Major Jean-Marie Boudin, the police spokesman, tried to

calm the latest rumours. "We are looking for anything that might be useful for our inquiry. Put yourselves in the position of the parents and imagine how they must be feeling." An angry statement by Michel Bourlet, the magistrate leading the inquiry, denying that bodies were expected to be found, failed to dampen the speculation. Police have searched up to 12 houses thought to belong to

Dutroux, but the latest is the most intensive yet. The house was formerly occupied by Bernard Weinstein, an associate who Dutroux has admitted murdering and whose body was found buried in the back garden at another house nearby. Speculation mounted yesterday with reports in the press and on television of police sources saying that Dutroux, the 39-year-old unemployed builder, had admitted

five bodies were buried at the property. He had previously claimed that he thought An and Estie were alive, although no longer in the country. This prompted rumours that they might have been sold into prostitution in the Czech Republic or Slovakia. Dutroux and nine alleged associates, including his wife and a police traffic inspector, have so far been arrested on various charges.

**"Ni peng! Nee Wom! We are the Knights Who Say 'Ni'!"**

INCLUDES THE MISSING 24 SECONDS

MONTY PYTHON AND THE HOLY GRAIL OUT NOW TO BUY ON VIDEO

# Exam board merger ordered by Shephard to protect standards

John Carvel  
Education Editor

The Government yesterday served notice on the examination boards that they should merge into two or three conglomerates to stem allegations of a competitive devaluation of A level and GCSE standards.

GCSE pass rate at grades A\*-C increased by 1 per cent to 33.7 per cent. Critics allege that schools are shopping around to raise their position in league tables by picking the easiest exams.

Qualifications (GNVQ) which is announced by the awarding bodies today.

Results overall were the best ever, and teachers and their pupils should be congratulated.

cent of those entering their final year got a full award equivalent to at least two A levels; another 24 per cent achieved six or more units equivalent to one A level.

## Teachers threaten strike to keep boy out



Donald MacLeod  
Education Correspondent

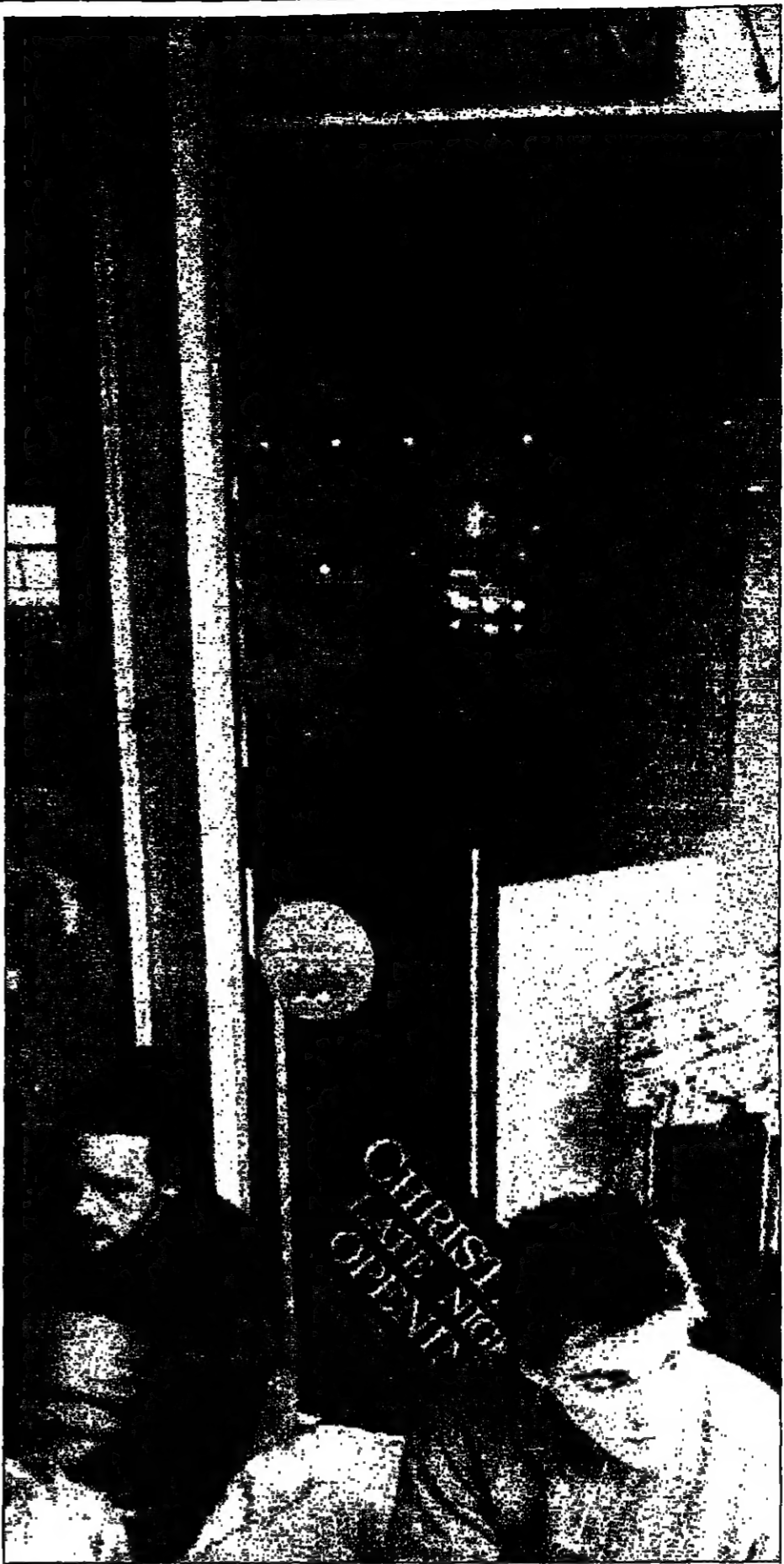
TEACHERS at a junior school have voted to strike to force the expulsion of a boy aged 10 in the latest in a series of confrontations over deteriorating classroom discipline.

The dispute is jeopardising the start of term for more than 200 children, aged seven to 11, at Manton junior school in Worksop, Nottinghamshire.

de Gruchy, the union's general secretary.

pelled last term after allegedly scuffling with a teacher and another pupil.

Matthew Wilson: 'threatened other pupils'



Dossing down in a shop doorway in the Strand, central London

## London's dossers affect tourism, warns charity

James Maikle  
Community Affairs Editor

THE sight of people sleeping rough on the streets is damaging Britain's tourist trade, a charity for the homeless said yesterday.

homeless person". Some districts were so repellent "no person of sound mind" would pay money in search of entertainment there.

by the Government that initially reduced the number of people sleeping rough from more than 1,000 to around 350 in central London.

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**INVESTMENTS**

## Use of CS gas against woman is defended

### Police justify using spray after fears for baby and two children

Duncan Campbell  
Crime Correspondent

POLICE yesterday defended the use of CS gas sprays in incidents involving a mother who violently resisted giving up her baby in a care order case, and two disruptive children in a local authority home.

It was a "dire" emergency, the spokesman said.

On each occasion the sprays had been used in accordance with the guidelines of the Association of Chief Police Officers, which stipulate that they should be employed when there is risk of serious violence or harm, the spokesman said.

كتابنا العربي



Eigg residents and prospective owners of their island show visitors what they condemn as the legacy of neglect by absentee landlords. PHOTOGRAPH BY WARD

### 'Barmy' islanders in £2m scramble to buy their Eigg

Erlend Clouston on a pioneering plan to rid a Hebridean isle of its absentee owners

TWO-and-a-half centuries after the Stuarts landed in the Hebrides, the islanders of Eigg yesterday launched a similar revolution. Under the slogan Let's Crack It, the 23 residents announced details of a plan to raise £2 million to buy their 7,400 acre heather covered home and its 17 properties for themselves. Or almost for themselves. For unlike the Jacobites they have the support of a state body, the Highland Council, which has joined them and the Scottish Wild Life Trust in a partnership which will be watched by other rural communities burdened with absentee landlords.

Over the last 150 years, Eigg — 10 miles off the mainland — has changed hands nine times, and this month it was put back on the market for £2 million by Marlin Eckhart, a Stuttgart artist who has owned it for just 16 months. The islanders hope a public appeal will raise £900,000 to complement the £1 million-plus they are confident of receiving from the National Lottery Heritage Memorial Fund. Consultants to the council will soon present lottery administrators with a business plan that includes developments in forestry, infrastructure and green tourism. "We would be a demon-

stration project for the whole of Europe on the management of a fragile site that people want to see but don't want to destroy." Nick Reiter, the council's head of policy and research, said after hosting a tour of sites illustrating the grim consequences of successive landlords' failure to grant leases.

In the small corrugated iron shed that is Eigg's post office and shop, proprietor Mark Cherry complained about the site and dump. At Kildonan farmhouse, Colin Carr said it was impossible to invest in fencing and buildings with no security of tenure. Four families had allegedly been refused 90 per cent home improvement grants for the same reason.

With three sites of special scientific interest, 470 plant and 170 bird species, Eigg is relying heavily on donations from nature lovers. But the appeal will also be aimed at expatriate Hebrideans in North America, which has an Eigg Mountain in Quebec and an Eigg village in Ontario. Subscribers' names will be engraved in a Book of Eigg.

Time is critical: two prospective buyers have inspected the island and may, or may not, be deterred by the fact that the Rolls-Royce of the previous owner, Keith Schellenberg, was destroyed in a mysterious fire — prompting him to denounce his neighbours as "rotten, dangerous and totally barmy revolutionaries". Donations can be sent to the Eigg Trust, Isle of Eigg, PE2 4RL. Credit card contributions will be received on 0131 226 4242.



Former owner Keith Schellenberg, whose Rolls was wrecked

### Threat of more strikes as rail services are ravaged

TRAIN crews at nine rail companies are to begin voting tomorrow on a growing campaign of strikes over productivity pay and breaks after yesterday's walkouts ravaged seven rail operators' services, writes Seumas Milne. Passengers faced emergency timetables and replacement buses in the North West, North East, Scotland and Wales. The companies admitted that most services had to be cancelled in the dispute with guards, conductors and catering staff organised by the Rail Maritime and Transport union. The union's executive is expected to call more strikes later this week. Yesterday's stoppage,

which followed a walkout last Friday, proved more disruptive than expected. The dispute has highlighted the vulnerability to industrial action of the newly-privatised operators — with tight service contracts — while leaked documents show the state-owned BR subsidiaries are subject to strict government controls on their negotiating terms. Two privatised operators, InterCity East Coast and Great Western Trains, have already settled with the RMT, paying up to £10 a week for productivity gains. But senior British Rail executives say privately they cannot allow subsidiaries to increase labour costs before they are brought to market.

## Mr X in move to gain legal recognition as a father Transsexual's plea to European court

Stephen Bates  
European Affairs Editor

A BRITISH transsexual, born a woman, launched a case against the Government at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg yesterday to secure legal recognition as the father of a child born to his wife.

The man, known only as X to the court, wants the right to register the child born to his partner nearly four years ago. The couple have been in a stable relationship since 1979, though unable formally to marry since the law does not recognise a sex change operation as altering biological nature and a couple technically of the same sex cannot marry.

The child was conceived through artificial insemination by donor with the agreement of a hospital's ethics committee but X was not allowed to register as the father. Although the child now bears his surname, the birth certificate has been left

blank in the space for the father's name.

The man was in court yesterday to hear legal submissions to the international panel of judges from lawyers representing him, the British government and the European Commission of Human Rights.

The commission, which advises the court, believes the man's treatment violates the European Convention of Human Rights. Article 8 guarantees a right to privacy and family life without interference from public authorities.

The article states that the only permissible interference by government is in the interests of national security, public safety, the economic well-being of the country, for the prevention of disorder or crime, the protection of health and morals and the protection of others' rights and freedoms.

The application is not the first to come before the court concerning transsexuals, but it is the first to cite article 8, moving the argument about the legal recognition of a

change of sex on to new though more limited grounds than before.

In a case in 1990, involving the model Caroline Cossey, who was born a man, the court ruled that her legal rights had not been infringed because the authorities refused to alter her birth certificate to register her later change of sex and enable her to marry, because in all other respects her rights were respected.

But in a ruling last year involving a French woman who had been born a man, the court ruled that her rights had been violated because the authorities had insisted on the maintenance of her former masculine status on all personal documents, including cheque books and identity card.

If the judges find that X's rights have been infringed the Government may be forced to pay compensation laid down by the court and be bound to change the law next year.

A ruling is not expected for four or five months.

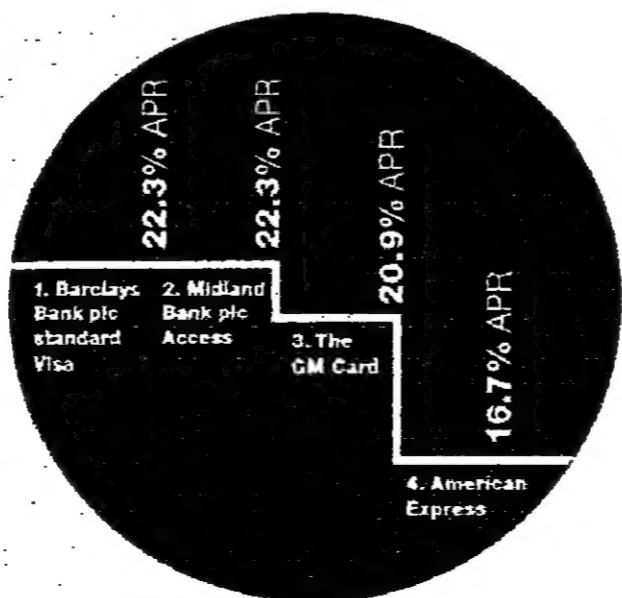
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The OSCE's decision is likely to avert polling day clashes but fuel confusion over the exit of Nato forces, writes Julian Berger in Sarajevo

# Bosnian local elections delayed

**B**OSNIA'S municipal elections were postponed yesterday when a United States diplomat supervising the poll ruled that "widespread abuse" had compromised the voter registration process.

Political and military analysts said the decision would reduce the threat of polling day clashes but almost certainly prolong large-scale involvement of Nato forces in the region.

Robert Frowick, the ambassador for the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), which is refereeing the September 14 elections, called off the vote for local councils despite fierce opposition from the Serbs, who argued that the election guidelines in the Dayton peace agreement had been "seriously distorted".

The Republika Srpska press agency, SRNA, yesterday described the decision as undemocratic and quoted the Bosnian Serb deputy prime minister, Miroslav Vjestica, as saying the municipal vote would go ahead.

Mr Frowick said an independently organised poll would not be legitimate under the Dayton accord. He confirmed that parallel ballots for national and regional government would go ahead on schedule, and added that Dayton allowed for local elections only "if feasible".

OSCE officials argued that by delaying the local poll, the effects of a Serb separatist campaign to coerce Serb voters to register in the Serb ethnic "homeland", Republika Srpska, would be minimised. Evidence gathered by election and human rights monitors suggests Croat separatists have pursued a similar policy

though on a smaller scale. Senior United States and European diplomats in the Contact Group of mediators, who meet next week, are expected to endorse Mr Frowick's recommendation that the vote should be held next April or May under international supervision. They will also consider the implications of the postponement for the international community's involvement in Bosnia.

Common sense tells me that there has been such an enormous commitment by the international community to what was laid out in the Dayton agreement, I can't imagine everybody would just drop it," Mr Frowick said.

## Loyal Chechen fumes at Lebed

David Hearst in Moscow

**A**S RUSSIAN troops began retreating from the ruins of Grozny, the head of the loyalist Chechen government accused Moscow of treason and said the rebels could plunge his republic into civil war.

Doku Zavgayev, the man installed by Moscow as leader of the Chechen republic, called General Alexander Lebed, President Boris Yeltsin's security chief who brokered the ceasefire deal, a traitor who had handed power to terrorists.

"If all this is not stopped now, the situation will move towards civil war, which would inevitably break out of the boundaries of the Chechen republic and spread over the Caucasus," Mr Zavgayev said in Moscow.

added that Gen Lebed had the full support of the prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, and Mr Yeltsin. However, Mr Yeltsin is still refusing to meet Gen Lebed and has instead demanded a written report. The official agency, Itar-Tass, said Mr Yeltsin was still on holiday and had not planned any official meetings.

Last week, Mr Yeltsin criticised Gen Lebed only hours before he reached a deal with the rebel military commander, Aslan Maskhadov. Mr Yeltsin accused his special envoy of promising much but delivering little in Chechnya. He backed the deal the next day.

The truce was given fresh impetus yesterday by a successful meeting between the Russian commander, Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, and Gen Maskhadov in the village of Novye Atagi, south of Grozny. Gen Tikhomirov said Russian troops would resume their withdrawal today. Gen Maskhadov, a leading moderate among the rebels, appeared satisfied. He said: "We gave each other our word that no provocations would become grounds for a breakdown of negotiations. Somehow, we got around to really acting on creating peace."



Sister Pierangela, aged 41 and Seattle-born, plays football with friends in the Tuscan village of Montalano. Villagers have petitioned her order not to transfer her to Capri

## Swedish congress against exploitation of minors aims to outrage, as California leads way with tough penalties

### World states tackle spiralling child sex abuse

**'If we accept a world in which children can be bought and sold as if they were goods in a supermarket, we forfeit the right to call ourselves civilised'**

**Jon Henley in Stockholm**  
**T**HE numbers are estimates, but if they even approach the truth they are horrifying. Almost no corner of the world from the poorest backstreet of Latin America to the ritziest European capital, can claim to be immune.

As delegates from 122 countries gathered in Stockholm yesterday for the first World Congress on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, the research they brought with them revealed the staggering scale of child sex abuse.

The commercial sexual exploitation of children has become a global, multi-billion-dollar industry," Carol Bellamy, executive director of Unicef, said in her opening speech to the conference.

Manifestations vary from society to society, but it takes place in virtually every country — and it appears to be booming.

The effects of sexual exploitation on children are profound and often permanent, Ms Bellamy said. "Normal development is compromised, self-esteem and confidence are undermined. The vast majority of sexually exploited children are denied their right to education. Many are ostracised by their families and communities."

Experts say many factors lie behind the recent global rise of child sex abuse. In some societies, the drive towards western-style consumerism has combined, disastrously, with traditional beliefs that young children, particularly girls, are property to be traded — families simply sell their children for something they want more.

Fear of Aids increasingly leads men to seek even younger prostitutes, in the mistaken belief that they are safer. And modern technology — the video camera, home editing suite, computer graphics and the Internet — has made it easier for paedophiles to produce and exchange child pornography, and far more difficult for police to stop them.

Organisers admit the five-day congress, sponsored by the Swedish government in co-operation with Unicef and non-governmental groups, is unlikely to produce many concrete, immediate changes, but it aims to produce more than well-meaning words.

Tom Techerling, one of the organisers and a former Swedish ambassador, said the congress should increase international co-operation aimed at strengthening and harmonising legislation.

"Laws are the ultimate protection for children," he said. "Nowhere near enough is being done either to make laws sufficiently strong or to enforce them when they are in place."

Campaigners say that although some countries have made advances in recent years, others lag behind.

Australia has led the way in extra-territorial legislation which allows its nationals to be prosecuted at home for "sex tourism" — sex crimes against children committed abroad.

Of the 12 countries which have adopted similar laws, Australia has by far the highest rate of action and the most severe penalties, including jail terms of up to 17 years, according to a Bangkok-based group, End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism (Ecpata).

By contrast, Sweden is almost alone among European countries in failing to pass legislation outlawing the possession of child pornography.

Sweden's child protection groups have threatened to disrupt the conference, and the anomaly — caused by constitutional procedure — drew an outburst from the Swedish queen.

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Mr Kirkhope planned to use the gathering to highlight Britain's measures to combat the sexual abuse of children. Measures to enable people who sexually abuse children overseas to be prosecuted in Britain are expected in the autumn.

He will also offer practical assistance. British detectives have been consulted by police investigating the Belgian child sex scandal, and the Metropolitan Police helped run a training programme in the Philippines to improve child protection programmes.

### Repeat offenders face 'castration'

Drummond Ayres in Los Angeles

**T**AKING the lead in a nationwide push to enact tougher sex-crime laws in America, California is set to pass a measure requiring "chemical castration" of repeat child molesters.

Opponents of the bill say it is a simplistic overreaction to a complex problem. "This measure raises some very, very serious constitutional questions, not to mention medical questions," said Valerie Small Navarro of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Supporters of the measure, who say it will protect some of society's most vulnerable crime targets, do not consider it too punitive, given the severity of the crime and the often compulsive, recidivistic and unrepentant nature of offenders.

"What we're up against is the kind of criminal who, just as soon as he gets out of jail, will immediately commit this crime again at least 80 per cent of the time," said Bill Hoge, the chief sponsor of the bill.

"So why not give these people a shot to calm them down and bring them under control or, alternatively, give them the option of going under the knife? That's what they do in some countries in Europe, like Sweden and Denmark and Germany. And when they do — medicine or surgery — the repeat rate drops to 2 per cent."

Opponents of the bill say it is a simplistic overreaction to a complex problem. "This measure raises some very, very serious constitutional questions, not to mention medical questions," said Valerie Small Navarro of the American Civil Liberties Union.

"There are problems regarding the right to privacy, the right to procreate, the right to control over one's body. There are questions about drug side effects and whether treatment will work in every case, especially if it isn't voluntary and isn't accompanied by therapy and counselling, which the bill doesn't mandate." — New York Times.

**Isn't physical adornment an adult preoccupation? Shouldn't it stay that way? Encouraged in little girls, it's inappropriate, repellent, even sad.**  
Julie Myerson  
E2 page 13

Long to reign over us?

The kindest thing might be for Charles to go quietly

IS THERE a more exquisite form of modern torture imaginable than that involved in waiting to be King of England? Every dawn brings a fresh assault by headline...

always thought to be an inescapable duty. Mr Dimbleby tells us that the word "abdication" is anathema to the royal family. "It not only reeks of crisis and failure..."

But where is the dignity in being the Prince of Wales today and what prospect is there of salvaging any dignity in the foreseeable future?

We have it on no less an authority than Jonathan Dimbleby that not once, even in his darkest moments, has the Prince of Wales ever seriously contemplated the surrender of what he has

There is no doubting the Prince's sincerity when he speaks of his sense of duty. Yet, in his conversations with Mr Dimbleby, Charles can offer only painfully-stumbling clues as to what he thinks might be involved beyond a mere sense of duty.

When silence speaks volumes

Support for Mr Arafat's tortuous regime is fading

WHY ARE Yasser Arafat's friends not leaping to defend the Palestinian cause? Could it be that, as the human rights abuses of his regime multiply, he does not have many left?

dumped in hospital by his captors in the "coastal police" (one of 10 semi-autonomous security forces). Mr Arafat announced he would not tolerate torture and three naval officers were convicted after a hasty trial.

Mr Arafat will have fewer friends still if he continues to run the Palestinian Authority (PA) with a despotic disregard for human rights and democracy.

Edward Said (in the Guardian last week) argued that Mr Arafat is behaving just like the other ageing dictators of the Middle East.

A channel four the public good

Privatisation will diminish, not widen choice for viewers

A GOVERNMENT which can privatise water will not hesitate to sell public service television to the highest bidder. Michael Grade was right to start preparing his defence of Channel 4 at this week's Edinburgh Festival.

goodbye to that. It would introduce a familiar and stale media imperative: maximise your profits for shareholders by maximising your audience and spending less on programmes.

It is worth reminding the current cabinet that it was a Conservative government which set up Channel 4 in 1981. The reason remains as valid today as 15 years ago: the need for a channel with a specific commitment to minority interests, and to innovation and experiment in the form and content of its programmes.

But while the case against privatisation is strong, Mr Grade's best defence is upholding his channel's original aims. Dilution — through too many American imports and too many repeats — makes his station more venerable.



Letters to the Editor

The truth about youth

CHARLES Hendry's advocacy of young people's issues is well known and admired (Mad about the boys and girls, August 27) but in his enthusiasm he unfortunately gives reality a wide berth.

employment statistics. I was always under the impression that the song was actually about people with disabilities. Perhaps Hendry should refer to John Redwood, who seems to be more in touch with such things despite reportedly hailing from another planet.

FOR Charles Hendry to suggest that the parking, temporary-contract economy which this Government has created allows young people to "build and earn enough to enjoy [their] social life" stretches the bounds of credulity.

YOUR report (Young have never had it so good, August 26) identifies a number of policies which affect young people. Would that central and local government could offer a similar overview and create some alignment in policy towards the young.

1981 government survey revealed that one-quarter needed to beg, steal or sell drugs to survive, with many turning to prostitution. Drug abuse, particularly among the young, is a symptom of a wider malaise we ignore at our peril.

Current arrangements provide no mechanisms by which the needs and interests of young people can be identified — still less protected — when legislative or administrative action by different departments is proposed.

CHARLES Hendry cites UB40 singing about the "one-in-10", taking it as a commentary on the unemployment statistics.

Chief Executive, National Youth Agency, 17-23 Albion Street, Leicester LE1 6GD.

Nuclear target

YOU report assertions that the BNFL Thorp project is behind schedule (Production crisis hits Thorp nuclear plant, August 24). This is puzzling, particularly as BNFL has repeatedly made available figures which show that the project has exceeded the targets which have been set by the engineers and staff who are currently conducting the commissioning of the plant.



These figures have been made available to the public on several occasions over the past three years for the 10-year baseline period. Even at those levels, it only represents three-quarters of the plant's design throughput level of 1,200 tonnes.

NEW man seeks new post CHARLOTTE Raven uses CROOK Stark's decision to become a German kid as a trial excuse for asserting that all men are crap (What women don't want, August 26). Why? I live in a society I didn't make, my parents gave me values which conflict, though generally for the best. I've read feminist literature; I've never called a woman fat, ugly or dumb; I don't join in conversations leading men and dismissing women as interchangeable. Yet I am dismissable because my gender proves I'm useless beyond sex and DRY. I feel like: 1) a woman, 2) a German kid, 3) a trial, 4) the Final Solution; 5) the easiest target Ms Raven could think of.

Bill Anderson, Head of Media Affairs, British Nuclear Fuels plc, Risley, Warrington, Cheshire WA3 6AS.

Sex for sale

WHY the outrage at paedophilia and pornography? If British people want to know how they themselves have helped define perceptions of the role of women and girls, let them wander into any reputable high-street newsagent, where the top couple of shelves provide a shopper of any age with a range of pornography probably wider than the range of material for any other interest group. They will find plenty of examples of women dressed up, or rather down, in parodies of little-girl outfits, adopting "little girls' apparently helpless poses."

Blank holidays

WHILE we do not actively campaigning against this perpetually insulting display, we are supporting those who profit from it and encouraging everyone to believe that it's OK to view women primarily as objects for sex. Jimmy Pugsley, Richmond, Surrey TW10.

Workers of the world, unite

YOU report (Prescott woos Labour vote in US, August 26) that Labour's deputy leader says there is a lot to admire in the Clinton administration. On the same page is an account of how the new Welfare Bill, signed by Clinton, will cut off all assistance to illegal immigrants in California as well as millions of the poor in the rest of the US. Wouldn't my colleagues be better advised to make contact with the New American Labour Party set up recently in Cleveland at a conference of 1,500 people and with much support from US trade unions? They have decided that the Democratic Party no longer represents the working class and that the US needs a real Labour Party. Hugh Kerr MEP, European Parliament, 1047 Brussels, Belgium.

A Country Diary

TAMAR VALLEY: Below Weir Head, at low tide, the Tamar flows in a narrow channel beside a slippery, stony shore. Upstream is the silted-up lock of the derelict Navigation Canal, a quiet backwater covered in lilies and hemmed in by dark trees. Across the river's ebbing water, a single, round-headed willow marks the edge of an expansive sunlit meadow and beyond is a blue haze is Morwell Wood. Flat land on the Cornish side is restricted to a narrow terrace below the wooded Colley Cliff. Tall Himalayan balsam, Japanese knotweed and hogweed encroach on the narrow path and trees cast dense shade over ruined walls growing ferns, ivy and moss. Just recognisable are the remains of a lime kiln, the end wall of a cottage and an old well. Amazingly, this remote, overgrown site was once a shipbuilding yard downriver from Gunnislake, a booming mining town in the 19th century. Between 1864 and 1868 five vessels were built at Net-

Severe congestion as letters page blocked by anti-car emissions

MICHAEL Savage (Letters, August 27) describes the car as "an example of human ingenuity". If this were true, we would by now have cars that automatically reduce their size in accordance with the number of people carried, crumble on contact with human flesh, and cause no environmental pollution.

HOW can Mr Gummer claim to be ahead of Europe in controlling vehicle pollution? Ten years ago, residents in France were liable to be pulled off the road by special police units to have exhaust emissions tested. I myself was once found to be driving a car with a slightly excessive carbon monoxide reading. An immediate fine of 600 francs was the penalty. Cyril Kyre, Mutton's Cottage, S'Mabyn, Bodmin, Cornwall PL30 8BP.

THE modern car is more a product of vested interests (the oil and motor industries), advertising and the "me-first" attitude promoted by 17 years of Tory government. Jim Grosler, 82a Springfield Road, Brighton, E Sussex BN1 6DE.

DENIS Mason (Letters, August 26) says that a heavy increase in petrol duty would be unfair to those in rural areas who have poor public transport and very few local shops. This may seem a valid objection to higher petrol taxes but we need to consider why the rural infrastructure has deteriorated. The main reason is the growth of the car. Many car-owners in villages work in cities and do their shopping there; many others may still use their cars to go to the nearest out-of-town shopping centre. Both these groups rarely use public transport or shops in their own communities. This fall in demand leads to the withdrawal of local services and more pressure on people to buy a car.

AXEL Sindig claims (Letters, August 24) that industry is responsible for 70 per cent of pollution. Who makes cars? Motor vehicles use considerable amounts of steel and plastics, both of which use large amounts of energy and produce lots of pollution. He also addresses the "economies" of public transport vs the car, stating that public transport receives massive subsidies. I wonder if he takes into his equation the public subsidy in the form of health care necessary for the victims of the car. Les Stennett, 72 Woodplumpton Road, Woodplumpton, Preston, Lancs PR4 0NE.

This vicious circle needs to be broken for the sake of the many people who cannot afford cars, and for the sake of the environment. Richard Mountford, 76 Springfield Road, Birmingham B14 7DY.

Workers of the world, unite

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Baron Baker... the 'Christopher Columbus of Brixton' and of Notting Hill's Carnival

Baron Baker

King Carnival

Baron Baker had a taste for the theatrical. Whether hawking goat curry, rice and peas from a stall or...

favour of signing up for the RAP as a military policeman. Posted in Sussex during the second world war, he bridled with wounded British pride...

of the Windrush, Baker was dubbed the "Christopher Columbus of Brixton". He might equally have been called the Columbus of Notting Hill...

stories, peppered with Jamaican aphorisms, in his smoky, litting voice with an infectious laugh. He was a good-time boy, friends were drawn to him...

Letter

Klaus Helderstein writes: Rio Reiser, Germany's rock king may have been a travelling salesman's son...

Birthdays

Paul Allen, footballer, 34; The Duke of Argyll, chief of clan Campbell, 66; Rt Rev John Bone, Bishop of Reading, 68...

Death Notices

BARON BAKER. Passed away on 28th August 1996 aged 66. Buried at St. Martin's Church, London EC1A 3DD.

Raymond O'Malley

English as a lively living literary language

RAYMOND O'Malley, who has died aged 86, spent his life teaching English to young people, from primary level to university.

He was born in London of Irish parents - his father was a soldier - and as a young man his avid reading included the works of D.H. Lawrence...

His criticism of those educational theorists whose abstractions exhibited "hygienic, rootless rationality" had connected him with what became known as Cambridge English and to F.R. Leavis...

1946. His misery was unabated until his 1949 marriage to the artist Pamela King. It was typical of Baker that he returned to Dartington in 1953...

His interest in literature was broad and political in the tradition of R.H. Tawney. D.H. Lawrence represented for him, among other things, continuity in community life...

using the original texts when teaching literature to the young and opposed teaching a literature specially adapted for school pupils...

experienced might learn. In the Department of Education, he worked to know every student so that his choice of their school placements - he kept in close touch with each educational establishment - extended their understanding...

David Tudor

Black Mountain sounds

DAVID Tudor, who has died aged 70, abandoned a career as a virtuoso performer of contemporary piano music to devote himself to the composition and performance of electronic music.

Tudor was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he began his career as an organist. After studying composition and piano, he began to concentrate on the piano and soon became known as an interpreter of some of the most demanding works in the contemporary repertoire.

In New York in 1950, he gave the American premiere - and the second performance anywhere - of Pierre Boulez's Second Piano Sonata. He also gave the first performances of works by Karlheinz Stockhausen...

(1975). Exchanges (1978), Chausson Passers (1981), Sharks (1987), Fluxus Wind (with Cage and Tekebis Kosugi) (1988), Polarity (1990), and Enter (1992). In the autumn of 1992, he returned to the acoustic piano...



Composer at the electronic keyboard... David Tudor

Jacqueline Mommier, he developed a kite environment that was installed at the Whitney Museum in New York in 1986, in Düsseldorf in 1988, and at the Jack Tilton Gallery in New York in 1990.

rehearsing an extremely complex solo, one of the first he had choreographed with chance processes, he sat down in despair. Tudor then remarked: "Well, this is clearly impossible - but we'll go right ahead and do it anyway."

Jackdaw



Smells funny

REACH Out & Smell Someone (TM): RealAroma (R) introduces a whole new dimension to the man/machine interface game. The dimension of smell. With the RealAroma Drive (TM), and RATML (SM) (Real Aroma Text Markup Language) you can share smells in real time...

days in hamper), halitosis. The only smell here seems to be distinctly fishy, decide for yourselves at www.realaroma.com/ Strange vision PILGRIMS and sightseers are flocking into a small country church in South Australia to see a vision on the altar wall.

Clock in SAM: Male hormones are up with the dawn chorus, so it's an ideal time for making love... Fold away WITH the rise in popularity of telecommuting, keeping control of your workspace has become a real headache...

your day - you'll burn calories more efficiently. 2-3PM: The scientifically proven post-lunch dip. It's a natural phenomenon which occurs whether you choose the three-course special or a salad...

Feeling good ACCORDING to a survey conducted by the Gallup organisation, a majority of Americans prefer good things over bad things. Specifically, 72 per cent of poll respondents said that good things make their lives better, and bad things make their lives worse...

Mens Health advertisement featuring a man's face and text about health and vitality.

them being a slave on a Thai fishing dinghy which I perceive as being bad." When asked if self-administering a plaster of Paris enema was better than winning \$60,000,000,000,000,000 in a lottery, a surprising 22 per cent were undecided.

Emily Sheffield Jackdaw@guardian.com. E-mail Jackdaw@guardian.com.uk. Fax 0171-713 4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

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# Finance Guardian

## Mile Eye



Heat treatment... Fountains set among the marble of Broadgate provide a place to cool off in the August sun

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID BILITICE

'We're not talking to anyone,' insists Woolwich as disposal by top life insurer revives bid speculation

## Pru sells M&G for £1.75bn

Pauline Springett

**P**RUENTIAL, the UK's largest life insurer, yesterday unveiled the £1.75 billion sale of its Mercantile and General reinsurance arm to Swiss Re, reigniting speculation that it is poised to make a bid for the Woolwich building society. Prudential announced earlier this summer that it was planning a partial flotation of M&G, which it said was not part of its core life business. That announcement was widely interpreted by the City as a ploy to attract trade bid-

ders and in recent weeks the Pru was rumoured to have received several offers. Peter Davis, chief executive of the Pru, said the deal was good news for the company's shareholders. "We look on it as being very satisfactory," he said. "It was clearly better than floating. We got a higher price and we got it in one hit." Swiss Re has paid £1.704 billion in cash, but the Pru is also receiving a special dividend of £50 million, which represents surplus cash in the M&G business. The market had expected M&G to float with a capitalisation of between £1 billion and £1.5 billion, but the Pru

had been expecting to net initial cash proceeds of only around £500 million because the flotation would have been partial. M&G would have been the only listed reinsurance company and its shares would, therefore, have been tricky to price. The Pru has made no secret of its desire to buy either a life insurance company or a building society. It has been linked with a host of possible candidates, including the Woolwich, the Alliance & Leicester building society and mutual insurance Friends Provident and Scottish Widows. Mr Davis declined to be specific about his plans. He said

## Notebook

### Speeding into premier league



Edited by Alex Brummer

**A** TRADE sale of the Mercantile & General alliance was going to offer a neater solution to the Prudential, once it had decided to offload its reinsurance subsidiary. The mooted flotation would have been slower. The advice was that it would have to be done in two tranches; that it may well have raised less than the £1.75 billion which would have had to contend with market uncertainties and the unfamiliarity of UK investors with the reinsurance business. Speed has been of the essence to the Prudential. This is not because the Pru's solvency margins are under pressure — far from it — but because the window of opportunity for expansion into the broader financial services market through the purchase of either another life company or, more likely, a building society is narrowing. If its chief executive, Peter Davies, is serious about his desire to grab a building society, then the time for a deal is ripe. The Pru has made no secret of its desire to absorb a mortgage lender. If its targets include any of the larger societies currently in the process of converting — the Woolwich, the Alliance & Leicester of the Northern Rock — it needs to act quickly. Once these societies have converted into quoted mortgage banks they will enjoy five bid-proof years. A building society understood to have received offers from half a dozen of the largest players and Swiss Re simply made the biggest bid. The acquisition will make Swiss Re, the world's largest player in the life and health reinsurance market. M&G has about 1,300 employees, half of them based in the UK. Mr Davis said it was "too early to say" if there would be any redundancies.

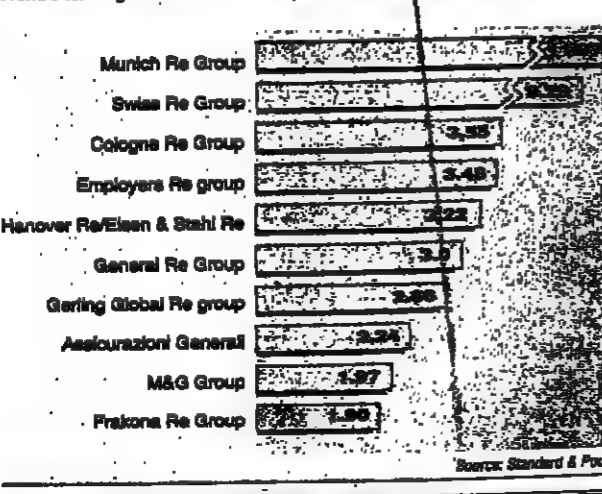
### Simpson's reward

**T**HE process by which George Simpson emerged as the next managing director of GEC may have been less ordered than was desirable, but the manner in which he is being employed looks exemplary. Instead of allowing the terms and conditions of Mr Simpson's contract to drift into the public domain, as is often the case when there is a transfer of business leadership, GEC took the important decision to make the new managing director's contract available for general inspection. Normally, access to such contracts is only offered to shareholders, by appointment and often under strictly controlled conditions. It is not, however, just the disclosure which is useful. Lord Prior and Weinstock — who were ultimately responsible for employing Mr Simpson — brought him across without compromising GEC's reputation for being as careful as possible with shareholders' funds. The transfer fee of £500,000 seems reasonable enough given that it is simply making good on a bonus which Mr Simpson loses as a result of cutting short his tenure at Lucas: besides in the post-Euro 96 Alan Shearer era it could be regarded as positively stingy. Moreover, the basic salary of £800,000 looks relatively modest given some of the extravagant salaries in the boardroom of companies responsible for far less manufacturing employment in the UK and much more modest contributions to Britain's exports.

If, as expected, Mr Simpson's arrival does usher in some change at GEC and eventually, perhaps, a higher share price than under the long-term bonus scheme he could eventually emerge as a very rich person. However, anyone taking responsibility for such a large part of Britain's remaining manufacturing capacity, from turbines to avionics and sea-going defence platforms, and improving their value to shareholders, will deserve to be properly rewarded.

## Risk takers

World's ten largest reinsurance companies. Net Premium, 1994, US\$bn.



## Reinsurance firms are at a premium

### Outlook

Pauline Springett

**S**WISS Re's decision to pounce on M & G is just the latest evidence that the world reinsurance market is consolidating rapidly. According to Philip Marcell, chairman of the London Insurance and Reinsurance Market (LIRMA), there may soon be no more than 10 "truly global" reinsurance companies left. The market has been shrinking for some time. An insurance company issues the policy to the client then

passes on a proportion of that policy to a reinsurance company. All sorts of risks are reinsured, from simple motor to complicated liability and catastrophe policies. The higher the risk attached to the policy, the greater the proportion reinsured. To complicate matters further, reinsurers also reinsure each other. This summer has been punctuated by a series of takeover deals in the sector as the leading players jockey for position. The largest deals include the announcement that the huge US reinsurer General Re was planning to buy its rival National Re. Earlier this month, Munich Re

## Lloyds's saviour

**A**FTER all the hype about potential insolvency, the verdict from the Bailiwick court effectively clears the way for Lloyd's London to go ahead with its £3.2 billion reconstruction plan. With more than 82 per cent of names, including some of the most injured, on board, it would have been extraordinary if the US legal system had caused the deal to founder. Nevertheless, the demand of US names for full and complete disclosure of every aspect of the deal, in accordance with Securities & Exchange Commission rules, is far from fanciful and worth considering on a voluntary basis as Lloyd's seeks to rebuild its reputation.

## New GEC boss beats Weinstock's salary

... but aspects of George Simpson's package are frugal, writes ROGER COWE

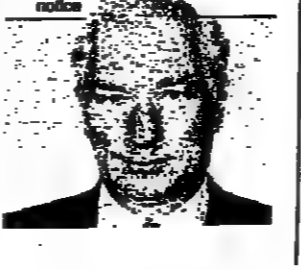
**G**EORGE SIMPSON, the new managing director of GEC, will be paid more than his predecessor, Lord Weinstock, who will step down at next Friday's annual meeting after 33 years in the job. In an unusual move, the electronics giant yesterday revealed Mr Simpson's contract, which provides for a £500,000 per annum basic salary — £50,000 more than Lord Weinstock's salary for last year as revealed in the annual report. Mr Simpson's pay may be increased each year, but cannot fall. Mr Simpson will also receive a "signing-on fee" of £500,000 as compensation for losing out on the long-term bonus scheme at Lucas. He has been chief executive

of the engineering group for two and a half years, following a career in the car industry which came to an end at British Aerospace after handling the sale of Rover to BMW. The rest of Mr Simpson's contract is broadly in line with common executive practice in the wake of the Greenbury committee requirements. But it shows some signs of GEC's frugality. For example, Mr Simpson will get a car appropriate to his status, plus the services of a chauffeur. But unlike even middle managers in many companies, Mr Simpson will be required to pay for his own private mileage. He will also have to pay for £500,000 as compensation for losing out on the long-term bonus scheme at Lucas. He has been chief executive

## Nice little earner

Simpson's new job at GEC

- £500,000 a year 'signing-on fee'
- £200,000 a year basic salary
- Bonus up to £300,000 a year, based on performance
- Share options up to four times salary
- Long-term bonus up to four times salary, based on share price performance
- Car plus chauffeur, but pays private mileage
- 25 days holiday
- Contributions to pension fund up to £250,000 a year
- 3-year contract, then 12 months' notice



## Treasury set to turn London home into flats for wealthy

**T**HE Treasury confirmed last night it is set to sign a deal to redevelop its prime Whitehall site which could include multi-million pound luxury apartments. The deal is being set up under the much-maligned private finance initiative. Two rival bidders for the listed building in Great George Street will shortly be told which plan has won Treasury approval and the chance to offer the ultimate in London addresses to the wealthy. If the flats get the go-ahead, a handful of residents will enjoy views over St James' Park rivalled only by The Queen at the other end of The Mall. It could follow the New York trend where the decision to turn the Stock Exchange into condominiums has given people top addresses at the establishment's heart.

The Treasury is keen to see the £200 million bid completed but risks fresh anger about the sell-off of public assets on the cheap. Much of the £200 million capital cost of the project could be quickly recouped, according to estimates by specialist estate agents Knight Frank. The agency estimated that top-quality flats with long leases in such a prime location would sell for about £2.5 million each at today's prices. The rival bidders are led by Stuart Lipton and Godfrey Bradman, two of Britain's most controversial property developers, whose companies worked together on the Ludgate and Broadgate schemes — among London's biggest-ever office projects — in the 1980s. Thought to be in pole position is Mr Lipton, whose company, Stanhope Properties, was recently bought out by British Land. He heads a consortium including Bovis, the construction

### TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1.81	France 7.59	Italy 2.304	Singapore 2.14
Belgium 15.85	Germany 2.250	Malta 0.5390	South Africa 6.58
Canada 2.0225	Greece 336.00	Netherlands 2.4975	Spain 198.10
Cyprus 0.59	Hong Kong 11.74	New Zealand 2.1800	Sweden 10.09
Denmark 6.0375	India 53.50	Norway 2.6975	Switzerland 1.7850
Finland 6.90	Ireland 0.9225	Portugal 229.85	Turkey 129.419
	Israel 4.89	Saudi Arabia 5.81	USA 1.5220

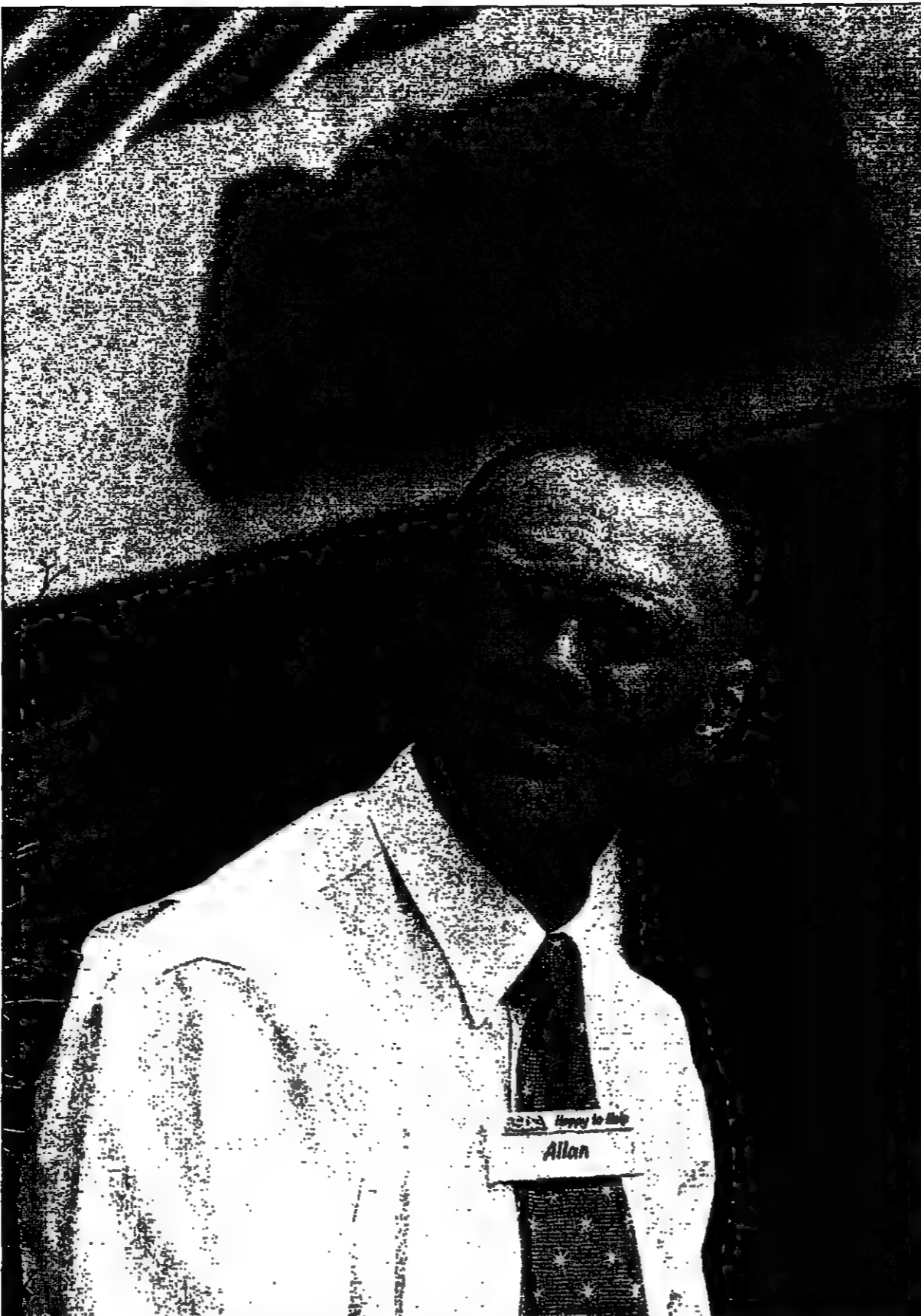
Supplied by Reuters Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli sheqel)

Could Asda saviour answer the Conservative election call?

Archie takes a step back

Roger Cowe

ARCHIE NORMAN, the man credited with the revival of the supermarket group Asda, yesterday signalled his intention to step back from the day-to-day management...



Taking over... Allan Leighton, who will succeed Archie Norman as chief executive of Asda after the annual shareholder meeting next week

London bosses failed to act with 'care and diligence'

SFA punishes Barings directors

Patrick Donovan City Editor

THREE former directors of Barings Bank yesterday stripped of the right to work in the investment industry for periods of up to three years...

control and reconcile the provision of margin to Barings (Futures) Singapore or to ensure that this was done...

SFA registration suspended for two years and was ordered to pay £10,000 costs. The SFA said that Simex had raised queries regarding the business of BPS in 1995...

reprimanded and his registration with the SFA has been suspended for a year. He must pay £5,000 towards the SFA's costs.

News in brief

Caradon clear-out to bring in £200m

CARADON, the heating and plumbing group, is to sell most of its engineering and distribution businesses as part of a strategy to concentrate on its main building materials operations...

Microsoft duo reduce stake

MICROSOFT'S co-founders, Bill Gates and Paul Allen, are planning to sell up to 500,000 shares each in a move which could raise about \$124 million (£82.5 million)...

Compass circles US caterers

SHARES of Compass, Britain's biggest contract catering group, jumped 79p to 536p yesterday after the company said it was buying Service America, a contract catering business owned by GE Capital...

United looks north

UNITED News & Media is to sell its local newspapers in Wales and the South-east so it can focus on its primary areas in the north of England.

Nappy-maker changes hands

FRENCH nappy-maker Pandoouze will be part of an asset-swapping deal between Sweden's Svenska Cellulosa forestry company and Kimberly-Clark of the United States...

Boost for American economy

NEW evidence that the American economy is gaining strength emerged yesterday as consumer confidence levels hit a six-year high.

New 'open skies' storm shakes BA

Keith Harper Transport Editor

AMERICA yesterday threw the planned alliance between British Airways and American Airlines into jeopardy when it unexpectedly cancelled 'open skies' talks...

Boeing hires 5,000 to lift jet production

BOEING is to hire more than 5,000 extra staff than originally planned this year in a move that will boost monthly production of its 777 jet by 40 per cent...

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Form for Business is changing. Are you? with fields for name, address, phone, and email.

Barclays and NatWest sued in US

Patrick Donovan

BARCLAYS and NatWest are being sued in the American courts over allegations that they attempted to drive a rival currency exchange dealer out of business.

intervened to block Chequepoint from establishing a relationship with NatWest. It alleges that the British banks have used irregular means to try to limit competition within the currency exchange market.

defended but declined to go into further details. But the lawsuit is likely to involve relatively small sums compared to the assets of both British banks.

said there was some 'potential overlap' in the commercial operations of Barclays, NatWest and Chequepoint.

JAVICO LTD

Wasim's art

Cricket

Mike Selvey suggests toil on technique to remedy the chronic shortcomings of England's attack as underlined by a master of the art

Wasim exposes the chasm

IF EVER there was an illustration of the chasm that English bowlers must cross before they can compete with the best in the world, it came late on Monday afternoon. Wasim Akram had taken 236 wickets in Tests and, with two more English batsmen there for the taking, was keen to get the 300th and distance the 300th wicket.

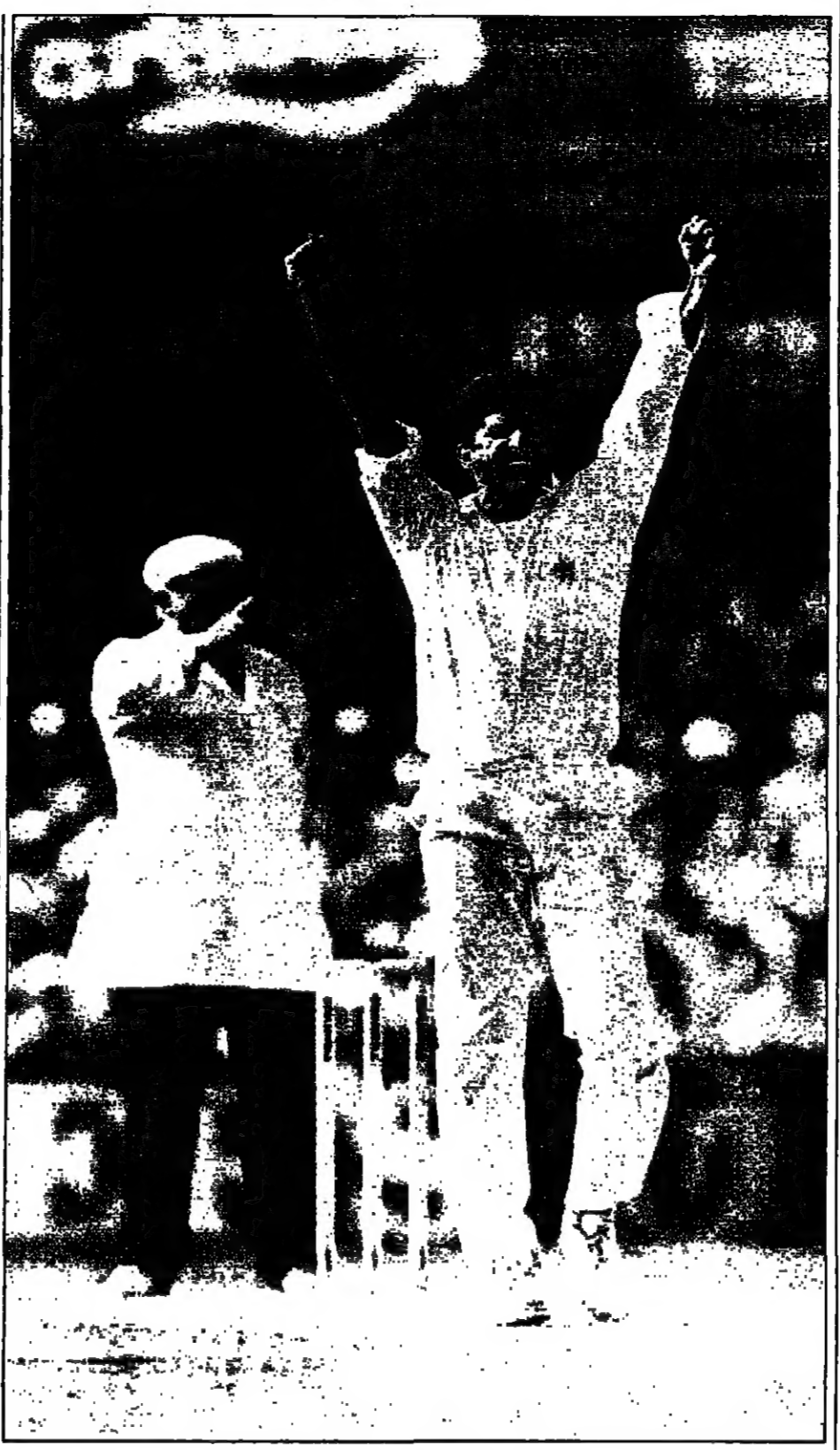
In essence this pair have stood the game on its head and, bearing that in mind, the England collapse at Lord's last month and at The Oval on Monday are not quite the feeble exhibitions they may have appeared.

Others need to learn that art. Cork is worrying. He is, we are told, fatigued after the amount of bowling he has had to do in the past year, and his knees must be a constant bother.

His bowling arm has never been at 12 o'clock but now it has become too low. Any swing he gets goes telegraphically early and direction is virtually uncontrollable.

Whether, as Wasim has said, England will never produce a strong bowling side until they reduce the workload is debatable. Certainly what is right for some is not for others.

Somewhere there is a balance to be drawn between playing and rest, cultivated not on the basis of individual needs. Much attention these days is given to training, diet and nutrition, and rightly so.



Out and away... Wasim celebrates one of his 300 Test wickets

SPORTS NEWS 13

Racing

Cecil keen to make his mark with Bosra

BOSRA Sham versus Mark Of Esteem, the two Guineas winners, is a mouth-watering prospect and there now appears every chance that they will meet in the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes at Ascot on September 28.

The four-day suspension picked up by Frankie Dettori at Deauville on Sunday will not count in the Jockey Club's "trotting-up" procedure.

Waqar signed by Glamorgan

GLAMORGAN beat some of the more fashionable punters to sign the Pakistan pace bowler Waqar Younis on a reported £200,000, two-year contract.



Waqar, £200,000 deal

Trainer McCormack calls it a day

MATT McCormack, who sent out Horage to win the 1983 St James's Palace Stakes from his small stable at Sparsholt, is getting out of racing after 40 years in the game.

you've got to win five races just to break even. I've got 22 horses but three of them I own myself and most of them are no bloody good."

Worcester (N.H.)

Racing results for Worcester (N.H.) including race numbers, names of horses, and their finishing positions.

Brighton card

Racing results for Brighton including race numbers, names of horses, and their finishing positions.

Carlisle with guide to the latest form

Racing results for Carlisle with a detailed form guide for each race, listing horse names, jockeys, and odds.

Results

A summary table of racing results from various tracks, listing race numbers and winners.

Rising lowers Royal colours

ROYAL Philosopher, trained by John Hills, was a creditable fourth behind Rising Quincey at Deauville yesterday.

Bumper for the first time today

Bumper for the first time today: BRIGHTON 2.50 One In The Sun; 4.50 Impending Time; CARLISLE 2.10 Latvian; 4.40 Clash of Swords; WORCESTER 2.00 Disco; 2.50 Cheer's

UTTOXETER

Racing results for Uttoxeter including race numbers, names of horses, and their finishing positions.

RIPON

Racing results for Ripon including race numbers, names of horses, and their finishing positions.

PLACED BY

A table listing various betting services and their contact information, including 'PLACED BY' and 'RACELINE'.

RACELINE

A table for 'RACELINE' featuring a grid of numbers and text, likely related to betting or racing statistics.

Soccer

What price the touch of Graham?

Martin Thorpe on a feasible marriage of convenience at City

SO George Graham could finally be back in football. Two months after the expiry of his year-long ban, the phone may at last ring with the offer of the sort of quality job he has been anxiously awaiting.

more than fed up with City's constant battles against relegation under their past two managers Alan Ball and Brian Horton.

How juicy then the prospect of employing a manager with such an impeccable track record as Graham at Arsenal - two league titles, a Cup Winners Cup win, an FA Cup and two League Cup triumphs. He also led Millwall up to the old second Division in 1993, the division in which City find themselves now.

If Graham is perfect for City, the reverse is also true. He knows from the lack of high-quality approaches that it is going to be difficult to return at the level he left.

One area that would need early clarification is job demarcation. The chairman Francis Lee is known to run the club with a rod of iron - including, it is understood, stepping too close to team matters. He attends training every day, has allegedly entered the dressing-room at half-time to see up the side and was in the pre-season team picture. Graham would stand none of that.

"They would have to get an understanding straight away," says Wallace. "That the chairman takes a back seat and becomes a chairman and he's there just for advice if George would want it. Maybe he would not be so reluctant to do that with someone as big as George Graham."

One thing is almost certain: the individualists in the team such as Georgios Kinkiadis are unlikely to last long under Graham, one of whose mottos is "I do not like stars unless they are prepared to get their hands dirty".



Graham... baggage



Laughing it off... Gareth Southgate makes light of the past at Bishop Abbots

Southgate's sense of history reveals leadership qualities

David Lacey finds the articulate England defender looking confidently forward after his recent spot of bother at Wembley

GARETH Southgate is probably no more a marked man than his marksmanship, so the thought of history repeating itself as French force in the 1998 World Cup is unlikely to dog the Aston Villa defender as England play their opening qualifier in Moldova on September 4.

Southgate, in case anyone has forgotten, is the Man Who Missed Liberty Valencia. That is to say he failed to score with England's sixth penalty in the European Championship semi-final at Wembley, leaving Andreas Müller to do the business for Germany.

"There are players who regularly take penalties for their clubs. I'm not an expert at it all. But I'll probably give the penalties a bit more than I did and, faced with a similar situation, I would have to take a call."

Before this could ever become even a remote possibility England first have to reach the 1998 World Cup and then qualify for the knock-out stage in a 32-nation tournament. So Southgate can be reasonably sure that history has not got it in for him, even if fate did threaten to double-deal Pearce after a six-year interval.

Southgate's immediate aim must be to capitalise on a successful European Championship which suggested that, having proved his versatility under Terry Venables, he is ready-made for the three-man defence envisaged by Glenn Hoddle. The free role at the back has been given by Villa's manager Brian Little must help his cause.

"I'm very comfortable with it," Southgate confirmed. "I enjoy being able to create from defence. It's certainly the way forward and most of our Premiership teams are doing it now."

Southgate's immediate aim must be to capitalise on a successful European Championship which suggested that, having proved his versatility under Terry Venables, he is ready-made for the three-man defence envisaged by Glenn Hoddle. The free role at the back has been given by Villa's manager Brian Little must help his cause.

First Division: Crystal Palace 0, West Bromwich Albion 0

No star turn at the new Palace

Martin Thorpe TWO teams with Premiership aspirations produced neither the required inspiration nor persistence last night in a colourless exhibition of very average football which, if repeated, should ensure their First Division status.

but in different ways. After Dave Bassett took over as Palace manager they came with a late burst that took them all the way to the play-off final. Albion started well but froze during the winter, losing 11 before the start of a spring recovery took them to mid-table.

45 minutes comprised Dyer's header just over from Roberts' free-kick, and a fine block by Palace's new keeper Day at the other end after Quinn's error let in Snelboes, who would have done better to pull the ball back for Taylor rather than shoot.

Given the general lack of action, some harsh words must have been spoken in the half-time dressing rooms and they produced an immediate response. A minute after the break Roberts, on the left, fired a ball into the Albion area which Ndeh met with a smart swivel and shot that the visitors' veteran goalkeeper Spink just managed to get a hand to before the ball

dropped off the post. Palace were beginning to put one or two sweet passing sequences together but it did not take long for the quality of the football to subside as general ineptitude prevailed once more.

Table with soccer results for First Division: Crystal Palace 0, West Bromwich Albion 0

Table with soccer results for other First Division matches

Table with soccer results for other First Division matches

Table with soccer results for other First Division matches

Dropped McGrath blames Villa for ending his international run

PAUL McGRATH, dropped by the Republic of Ireland for their opening World Cup tie in Liechtenstein on Saturday, is prepared to leave the Premiership to resurrect his international career.

club has been told. Fortuna Cologne want a transfer fee because they claim a year's option on Beck. Middlemarch regard him as a free agent under the Bosman ruling and refuse to pay.

Table with soccer results for other First Division matches

Table with soccer results for other First Division matches

Table with soccer results for other First Division matches

Table with soccer results for other First Division matches

Rugby League

Broncos pass the Academy test with Salter selection

A RICHLY encouraging session for the London Broncos played further marks yesterday when Matthew Salter was named in the Great Britain Academy squad to tour New Zealand.

Golf

Course for complaint in Ryder race

TEN out of 12 of the last 11 Ryder Cup teams appear this week in the One 2 One British Masters being staged on this course near Northampton.

Chess

Sport in brief

The team of veteran champions won 27%-22% against the

Rugby Union

John Lomu, brother of Jonah, will make his Welsh Cup debut on Saturday at the Old Ladydowns away to Swansea.

Team talk

Table with soccer results for other First Division matches

Cricket

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP: Bradford Yorkshire 201-8 dec (1) vs Wood 158

Cycling

TOUR OF NETHERLANDS: First stage (Goesse to Heerde, 161km): J. Cuijpers (N) 1st

Ice Hockey

WOMEN'S EUROPEAN FINAL: Hungary 2-0 Czechia

Handball

WOMEN'S EUROPEAN FINAL: Hungary 2-0 Czechia

THE END OF A CENTURY OF TRADITION LEADS TO OFF-FIELD MAULS AND RARE DISPLAYS OF OPPORTUNISM



Stepping into a brave new world... Rob Andrew teamed up with Sir John Hall at Newcastle; Jonathan Davies returned to Wales; Martin Bayfield gave up his day job; Philippe Sella crossed the Channel; and Scott Quinnell wanted a pay rise

Twelve months ago a once rigidly amateur game embraced professionalism. David Plummer looks at the growing pains of a pastime that has turned into a business

A year that shook the world of rugby union

August 27, 1995 THE International Board, meeting in Paris, abandons 120 years of tradition and rugby union becomes the last major spectator sport to embrace professionalism. Within two or three years a tiny percentage of professional rugby players will emerge at the top end of the game. They will have no other job. They will no longer be able to miss a league game because they want to attend a wedding, says Will Carling. The IB chairman, Vernon Pugh says the abandonment of amateurism has been made to end hypocrisy. "We had a situation which tended to make honest men dishonest. The social and moral philosophy of an intensely competitive worldwide sport in 1995 is, rightly or wrongly, very different from that of the late 1890s and even of the late 1980s. The limited role of the IB has to change."

England's lock Martin Bayfield asks for a five-year sabbatical from the police force to become a full-time rugby player. French clubs vote against full-blown professionalism. The RFU announces one-year moratorium on professionalism. First Division clubs in Wales form themselves into First Division Rugby Ltd. Ireland announces that only international players will be paid in the new season. A players' union in England and Wales is set up. The RFU sets up a commission on professionalism. England's League One clubs declare a vote of no confidence in it. Five Nations meet to set up a European Cup. France declare their unhappiness over the proposed distribution of revenue from the competition. RFU and Scotland decide not to field sides until the following season. Rob Andrew is appointed rugby director of Newcastle on a five-year contract worth £750,000. England's League One clubs form their own company, following Wales

and France. European Cup secures sponsorship from Heineken. ITV signs a four-year £20 million television deal. October 1995 MEMBERS of the England squad refuse to sign professional contracts drawn up by the RFU because the terms have not been approved by their clubs. The IB prohibits club contracts from cutting across national requirements. Only unions may negotiate broadcasting rights. Jonathan Davies signs for Cardiff from Warrington for £70,000. November 1995 ENGLAND's top clubs call for the introduction of transfer fees and professional contracts as well as a greater share of money from television and sponsorship deals agreed by the RFU. The RFU's commission on professionalism reports. Moratorium on professionalism to be lifted at the end of the season along with the 120-day qualification period for players moving clubs. Players will not be entitled to a percentage of transfer fees but will be allowed to negotiate a signing-on fee. Proposal that the Five Nations be moved to May. The millionaire Nigel Wray pumps £2.5m into Saracens. Scotland draws up contracts for its national squad players worth more than £20,000 a man. The RFU sets aside £1.5m to pay for its top 50 players and its management team. The businessman Keith Barwell promises to invest £1m in Northampton.

December 1995 RFU and Rugby Football League plan two matches between Bath and Wigan to decide the best of the best. The Australian Ross Turnbull offers leading players £200,000 to play in an international summer circus. England players sign contracts with RFU worth £28,000. January 1996 CLIFF BRITTLE to challenge John Jesvons-Fellows for the position of RFU executive committee chairman. Referees to receive £400 for controlling international matches. NEC injects £1.5m into Harlequins. Saracens sign Michael Lynagh and Philippe Sella. Brittle defeats Jesvons-Fellows by 647 votes to 332. Chaos predicted as professionalism is not accepted

February 1996 ENGLAND's leading players are asked to sign contracts with their clubs. The Wales lock Gareth Llewellyn joins Harlequins in a six-figure deal. Sky bids to televise club rugby exclusively live in England and Wales. The millionaire Ashley Lewist seeks to pump £2.5m into Richmond. Welsh referees threaten to strike in row over expenses. March 1996 BATH members vote to turn the club into a plc. Clubs in England and Wales want to take over the running of the European Cup. Harlequins threaten legal action against the WRU for holding Gareth Llewellyn to the 180-day qualification rule. WRU eventually backs down. English clubs draw up a contract which asks players to choose between club and country. England's leading players demand a minimum wage of £18,000. Special general meeting of the RFU agrees the game should go open. Union and leading clubs still deadlocked over contracts. Leading players in South Africa sign contracts worth £425,000 over three years. April 1996 RFU offers players £44,000 to stay in Ireland after offers from English clubs. Wales, Scotland and Ireland threaten to eject England from the Five Nations in a row over television money. The RFU has given notice of its intention to pull out of joint negotiations and secure its own television deal. England announces £37.5m deal with Sky for the rights to all its rugby, including championship matches; Wales, Scotland and Ireland offered lesser deals. Brittle supporters announce plans to sack RFU secretary Tony Hallett. May 1996 CLUBS insist on taking full control of the European Cup. Cardiff's prop Mike Grifffiths signs £210,000 deal with Wasps. Richmond sign Scott Quinnell, having landed Ben Clarke, Andy Moore and Adrian Davies. RFU threatened with mutiny by its own players if England are kicked

out of the Five Nations. Brittle tries to abort RFU's Sky deal. Wales's top clubs offered £2m by the WRU not to break away. RFU and the First Division clubs agree a power-sharing package which allows the clubs a major say in sponsorship and television deals and the running of club competitions. The media tycoon Chris Wright bids to take control of Wasps and Queens Park Rangers FC. Bath play Wigan in league and union. June 1996 THE former England manager Geoff Cooke becomes director of rugby at Bedford after the club gets a £2m cash injection. RFU confirms Sky deal. Welsh clubs threaten a players' strike unless the WRU accepts their Sky deal. Wigan players Henry Paul and Valiga Tuigamala join Bath and Wasps respectively. England negotiate to play six Tests against the Southern Hemisphere superpowers next year. Brittle still working behind the scenes to save the Five Nations but fixtures are drawn up for a home-and-away Four Nations Championship without England.

July 1996 WELSH RU rejects Sky offer. The businessman Andrew Brownson puts £5m into Bath. WRU and clubs reach agreement over the way forward. Bill Bishop, outgoing RFU president, steps in to try to resolve the Five Nations row. England thrown out of the Five Nations. Debut holders threaten legal action against the RFU if England are not readmitted to the championship. England bid to play Australia, New Zealand and South Africa on a regular basis. Wales's clubs reach £22.5m deal with Sky for Welsh league and Anglo-Welsh matches. Rejected by the WRU, England's clubs again threaten to break away saying promises have been broken. Scott Gibbs signs for Swansea.

August 1996 ENGLAND make concessions to stay in the Five Nations. They are rejected because the RFU refuses to unscramble its Sky contract. England given until the end of the month to step into line. Row between England and Wales after the cancellation of challenge matches between the league and cup winners in both countries. WRU threatens legal action. Scott Quinnell threatens not to play for Wales again unless the WRU improves its £2,000 match fee. Welsh clubs threaten a players' strike unless the WRU accepts their Sky deal. Wigan players Henry Paul and Valiga Tuigamala join Bath and Wasps respectively. England negotiate to play six Tests against the Southern Hemisphere superpowers next year. Brittle still working behind the scenes to save the Five Nations but fixtures are drawn up for a home-and-away Four Nations Championship without England.

'Players will no longer miss a league game to attend a wedding'

Will Carling



Code-breakers... Tuigamala catches up with Sleighthorpe in one of two historic meetings between Wigan and Bath

'We had a situation which tended to make honest men dishonest'

Vernon Pugh

Advertisement for BT sponsorship of the British Paralympic Team. It features a large image of a Paralympic athlete in a wheelchair and several smaller images of medals. Text includes: 'Congratulations from all at BT to the British Paralympic Team winning no less than 39 Gold medals and being placed 4th overall in Atlanta'. Logos for BT and British Paralympic Association are shown. At the bottom, it says 'BT is the official sponsor of the British Paralympic Team'.

